

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

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In the Matter of:

Home, Kansas 66438
Post Office State ZIP Code

Docket No: A-2012-174
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Kenneth & Carol Koch, Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the Home post office. The Final Determination was posted October 17, 2011 (date)

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

Please see attached letter. Thanks

1. Postal Service failed to consider the effect of the closing on the community.

The rural communities need their small office as a lot of the people are in the Senior Citizens age group. In our community it is the OIC that have gone out of their way to SERVICE these people. Senior Citizens need to have the convenience of having a post office to take care of their different kinds or types of mailing and told the best way to do their mailing.

The people in business need it so they don't have to take time off from their business to run to another town. With all the business in Home it would be quite expensive for them to do the running. How can they lock their doors to run to another town to do their business and stay in business?

The questionnaire that was mailed to the patrons was like a "two edged sword". The answers could be interpreted either way. We need all the business we can get and I am sure they could close their doors or have another service pick up their products. Can see that losing a lot of money for the postal department.

I also thought it was bad business when the post office took out the Boxes from the Post Office. That was revenue for the postal department. Also the route. People came to get their mail. Check on their neighbors. Was a gathering place to find out what was going on in the community, could have your mail held if you were going to be gone for a few days without a lot of hassle. Patrons did their business while at the post office and knew what the postal system had to offer. Now we find out nothing unless we go and ask.

Home has had no Sat. window service for some time and when the office closes at noon that puts a lot of mail in the Outside Box. This mail is never counted when you do the Mail Count. When office was open on Sat. it let the working people come and do their business. Closing the post office will make the customers do more traveling to another post office and or make a lot of long distant phone calls to get the information they need.

Was told a rural carrier could do everything that the post office could do. Who is going to be charged the expense in training them for all those jobs. Will their vehicles be equipped to hold all the items they will need to do a special service or will they take the items back to another post office so they can do the job? Will the carrier be able to stick to his schedule in delivering the mail on time? People will not leave money in a rural box. There is too much stealing now days. Also I would like to know how to send my packages and the best way to get them there and not have to wait 2 or more days before they do get mailed.

People running extra miles to a post office will not help the local economy. The Home Post Office has made money for the postal dept. The revenue has been on the plus side and we were told an office could not be closed because of the revenue.

Was told the Marysville Post Office was only 10 minutes away. Highway 36 carries 3 times more traffic than it was designed to carry. Very seldom can one make it to Marysville in 10 minutes. A lot of farmers in area and they have big equipment. Planting and harvest time the traffic is slower. No way can one get to Marysville then in 10 minutes.

At the community meeting we were suppose to get information on how to or what to do to keep our office open. We sure didn't get any ideas, or told where to look to get the

ideas.

2. Postal Service failed to adequately consider the economic savings resulting from the closure.

Closing the post office would effect the OIC as they would not be moved to another office. They are non career and there would be no place for them to go in the rural areas, since they want them all closed. With no jobs in the local area the revenue would not stay here. The post office expense will just be transferred to another office or department.

3. Postal Service failed to follow procedures required by law regarding closures.

When the community meeting was held, there was no MPOO present. It was conducted by a postmaster from another office. If the MPOO for our area lives in Topeka and his office is in Omaha, how does he keep up with the business for that office.

Didn't seem like we could get any direct answers to our questions at the meeting. All were so vague.

A question was asked about keeping the name of the town for our address and zip code. Was told the town may change but the zip code stay the same. Is that correct? I have seen where the town was kept but the zip code was changed?

Found out the customer with the postage meter was not being credited to our Home Post Office. So after that was straightened out, our revenue was higher than stated. Is there a way to keep that from happening each time it is renewed. That is always a hassle and time consuming process to get straightened out.

4. Factual errors contained in the Final Determination.

Notice that was mailed out said our last Post Master to Retire was in 2001. That is incorrect. The last one to retire was in 1988 or 1989. Since then there has been 3 post masters, but mainly OIC with no benefits. That makes the report wrong on the expenses charged to the Home office for 9 years or more as the OIC had no benefits. The \$5142 they said for each year was not paid, so where did that money go?

They first said the office was not handicap accessible, but has been changed in the docket book as it is accessible.

If the postal people use computers, do their business on email and spend extra money being hooked up to the internet, why are they complaining about other people using it. Postal people are paying for the hook-up to use internet but couldn't they do more by the mail service. If a customer orders items by email, does that transaction get credited to their local post office? How does that transaction work? How much is the postal offices paying for Internet services?

The postal system also does a lot of advertising on T V. Isn't that a big expense and how do you find out the response from the advertisement if it was successful or unsuccessful?

Our hope is that the postal people will take a good look at the rural areas and keep the offices open. We need that sense of community and as they say the HEART of a

community is the post office.

Kenneth and Carol Koch

Kenneth Koch
Carol Koch
